GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2639
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
PROGRESS IN EARTH SCIENCES RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any research facility in the Arctic region;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof;

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which research facilities are likely to become operational;

(e) the names of the countries which have set up research stations in the region; and

(f) whether scientists of such countries have regular interaction on their experiences with the Indian scientists?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) A research base "Himadri" with adequate living and work space for eight scientists has already been established by India at the International Arctic Research Base at Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Norway.

(b) Utilising the International Arctic facilities at Ny-Alesund and with Himadri as the base, the Indian Scientists, since the summer of 2008 have been carrying out scientific studies in the disciplines like, Glaciology, Atmospheric sciences and Biological sciences.The Ministry has already finalised a science plan of the activities proposed to be taken up by Indian scientists at Ny-Alesund in the coming years.

(c) The Himadri station has been taken on an annual lease. The cost of leasing the building including the charges towards various services is approximately Rs. 34 lakhs per year. This will be in addition to the expenses related to the procurement, installation and commissioning of scientific instrumentation and travel expenditure as needed for the research activities.

(d) With the establishment of research base at Himadri, Ministry has already initiated certain specific projects on above disciplines from summer of 2008.

(e) The countries which have setup research stations in the region are Norway, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea and China.

(f) Yes Sir.